

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the final action of February 28, 2007 in which the Examiner indicated on page 12 of the Detailed Action that should the applicants be able to clearly point out where in the original specification the limitation about “including a plurality of access systems employing different access technologies” can be found, the Examiner would promptly place the instant application in a condition for allowance, the applicant thanks the Examiner for pointing out that the exact language about access technologies does not exist in the specification, although certainly the meaning is present for instance at page 2, lines 8-15 where IMT2000 and UMTS as new access methods compared to GSM access are described. In the very next paragraph, the word “technology” is used in the same general context of the background of the invention. Strictly speaking, however, the words “access technology” are not linked side by side.

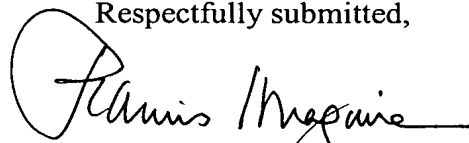
The concept that the applicant is trying to get across here, and which the Examiner evidently recognizes, is what was stated in the remarks section on page 7 of the last amendment, i.e., that a problem arises in switching network elements in a network environment that includes a plurality of access systems employing different access technologies with the attendant increase in complexity and maintenance of call control application increasing due to the combined use of different versions of applications in different switching techniques or different network generations.

Applicant believes that the same concept can be successfully integrated into the claims by simply removing the reference to “access” and substituting either “services” or “switching” as the case may be as shown in the above amendment. Clearly, there is original support for the above claim amendment that can be found on page 9, in particular starting from lines 25 to 30, which state that applications used in such network environment are providing services, e.g., in relation to call control or others such as transcoding, tone generation, ... (page 9, lines 15-19). In terms of those applications and/or services it is expressly stated that they do not need to know the technology related details of the physical resources underlying the applications. Therefore, the switching resources are abstracted using logical resources which are switching technology independent.

It is believed that this amendment after final is admissible because the changes are made necessary because of the Examiner's requirement and could not have been made earlier because applicants could not have anticipated such a requirement. No further search of substantial consideration is necessary.

The objections and rejections of the Office Action of February 28, 2007, having been obviated by amendment or shown to be inapplicable, withdrawal thereof is requested and passage of claims 1-28, as amended, to issue is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis J. Maguire", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

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